

Remarks/Arguments

The amendments set forth herein are provided solely to clarify the invention as filed and set forth in the pending claims in order to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. The amendments are not intended to limit the invention or preclude the application of equivalents which Applicant may be entitled to under law.

Status of the Application

Claims 1, 21, and 31 were previously canceled. Claims 2, 16, and 22-32 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Fang (US 7,103,063). Claims 3-15, 17-20, and 33-40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim rejections, 35 USC 102(b)

The allowability of claims 3-15, 17-20, and 33-40 is gratefully acknowledged. Applicant has canceled all other claims, and has rewritten these claims in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, per examiner's recommendation.

Specifically, dependent claims 3 and 9 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of base claim 2. Dependent claims 4-8 now depend on amended claim 3, and dependent claims 10 and 11 now depend on amended claim 9. Claim 2 has been canceled because it now is redundant.

Dependent claims 17-20 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of base claim 16, and claim 16 has been canceled because it now is redundant.


Dependent claims 33 and 39 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations of base claim 32. Dependent claims 34-38 now depend on amended claim 33, and dependent claim 40 now depends on amended claim 39. Claim 32 has been canceled because it now is redundant.

In view of the fact that Applicant has rewritten all objected-to claims in to now include the limitations of the appropriate base claims, and in view of the fact that all other claims have now been canceled, Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable. Applicant thus respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application; the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to process this Amendment, or credit any over-payments that may apply, to our Deposit Account No. 50-2421.

Respectfully submitted,

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David R. Stevens
Reg. No. 38,626

Stevens Law Group
P.O. Box 1667
San Jose, CA 95109
Tel (408) 288-7588
Fax (408) 288-7542